GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:256
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
EDIBLE OILS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production, demand and import of Edible Oils during the last three years and thereafter indicating the name of the countries from where it was imported, State-wise and Oil-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the import of Edible Oils;

(c) whether the prices of Edible Oils in the country have been spiralling during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure adequate availability of Edible Oils in the country and to check their prices?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 256 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): Production, import and demand of Edible Oils in the country during the last three years and thereafter are enclosed at Annexure-I. State-wise and oil-wise production of edible oils during the last 3 years is at Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively. The name of the countries from where the edible oils were imported (quantity and value) is at Annexure- IV. State-wise import of Edible Oils is not available.

(c) & (d): The prices of edible oils in the country have gone up. The statement of monthly average wholesale prices in domestic market is given at Annexure-V.

(e) The steps taken to ensure availability and check prices of Edible Oils in the country include:-

1. Import of oilseeds/edible oils except copra/coconut oil has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL).

2. Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in certain States, financial assistance for Oil Palm Development, assistance provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, integrated pest management etc.

3. Enhanced incentives to the farmers through fixation of higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

4. During the period beginning from August 2006, import duties have been reduced. Import duty on crude and refined palm oil/ Palmolien has been reduced from 80% to 45% and 90% to 52.5% respectively. Duty on crude and refined sunflower oil reduced from 75% to 40% and 85% to 50% respectively. Duty on crude and refined soyabean oil reduced from 45% to 40%.

5. Crude and Refined edible grade vegetable oils have been exempted from 4% SAD w.e.f. 1.3.2007.

6. In order to harmonize the interests of farmers, processors and consumers, the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.